



# On the Same Page

“Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O LORD, You know it all.” (Psalms 139:4 NAS95)

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## A Developing Direction

### Forever-Family Fellowship

**We will teach and practice truth-and-love relationships with brothers-sisters in Christ that must survive/thrive in the present because we believe that these relationships will last forever**

### All-Week-Long Worship

As the local body of believers gathers each Sunday for worship, **we will inspire a worship experience for all age groups that will travel with you all week long.** What we do on Sunday will assist you in your singing, in your praying, in your devotion, and in your witness.

Conversely, it is as you worship all-week-long that you will be prepared to enter into gathered worship on Sunday.

### Day-to-Day Discipleship

As followers of Christ, we are disciples every single day. Respect for and commitment to Scripture is essential. **We will show you how to interact with and respond to God's Word, both as individuals, and in groups.**

### Moment-by-Moment Mission

God, the Architect of the world and of our lives arranges appointments and interruptions. Each of us is called to represent His Son for the glory of His Name. **We will cultivate a mind-set for moment-by-moment mission, whether close to home, or far away.**

## Algorithm

Sunday, July 16, 2017

I was driving up north to Lake Ann for one of the quarterly board meetings at camp on which I'm privileged to serve. I listened to a podcast about artificial intelligence on the way up, and something he said caught my attention. The expert said that there are now boards of directors on which they are placing a robot as a voting member. One of the seats is actually filled by an algorithm. He (it) gets a vote - just one - but it is a real, participating member of the leadership.

The speaker said that certain algorithms are actually more skilled than people, especially in functions where non-emotional analysis is required. An algorithm can actually read an x-ray searching for signs of lung cancer more skillfully than a human technician. It is able to rapidly analyze each of the pixels of the photograph, looking at the picture differently than we humans tend to do.

Clearly this doesn't apply to all roles that humans fill. Humans are better at considering situations from different points of view, and integrating ideas from a variety of disciplines. But, humans also tend to over-estimate their objectivity, and that's where the algorithm shines. It doesn't get bogged down in the emotions or subjectivity of a case.

A couple more things: Many such algorithms (robots) are now self-learning. That is, they analyze their own performance and the performance of others, and improve over time, rapidly, so that they write new algorithms that are better than before. They are self-improving, and don't spend too much time denying that they have previously made a poor judgment, unlike you and me.

And then this: scientists are now designing “master algorithms” that are able to take the work and results of many algorithms with a range of responsibilities, and to unite them into a cooperative force that will address more problems. The scientists know that they will soon not be able to even understand all the conclusions that the algorithms will write. I guess we will then just have to trust them.

Other than looking around the room tomorrow wondering which one of us is really more algorithm than human - I had to wonder if God is not a little like the master algorithm - the one who is able to direct all that goes on from a superior position. But no, God is not a piece of code. For one, He is never-learning, in that He already knows all, and holds all knowledge at once. He does not figure things out, because He already knows. He holds secrets, but He also graciously reveals. And we know we can trust Him.

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Martin Luther, and his “Preface to the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans” (1522, and revised in 1546), helping us to properly define “faith.”

**“Faith is a divine work in us which changes us and makes us to be born anew of God (Jn 1:12-13). It kills the old Adam and makes us altogether different men, in heart and spirit and mind and powers; and it brings with it the Holy Spirit. O it is a living, busy, active, mighty thing, this faith. It is impossible for it not to be doing good works incessantly. It does not ask whether good works are to be done, but before the question is asked, it has already done them, and is constantly doing them.”**

Martin Luther’s Basic Theological Writings. Augsburg Fortress, 2005, p. 101.

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## **News and Notes**

**Prayer Time:** Saturdays, 7:30 a.m., at the Milford Tim Hortons; Sundays, 9 a.m., in the sanctuary

**Third Friday Thing, Friday, July 21, noon, at the Lund home.**

**Men of Action breakfast meeting and church facility work session** is Sat., July 22, 7:30 a.m.

**Please note the church’s new phone number: 248-717-3564**

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## **Weekly Worship @ 11:00 a.m.**

**Last Sunday, July 9, we continued “Jesus’ Plain Preaching”,** from his Sermon on the Plain. Having introduced Luke’s alternation between blessing and woes, we have been taking each of the

4 pairs in detail. The first message (Luke 6:20,24) was “The Problem of Prosperity,” [found online here](#)). The second message, from last Sunday, considered the surprising contrast between the hungry and the well-fed (vv. 21,25), **in a message entitled “The Problem of Plenty.”** [Listen to the message here.](#)

**This Sunday, July 16, 11 a.m., we continue on to part 3 of the blessings and woes, and consider “The Problem of Pleasure” (Luke 6:21,25).** These verses throw mourning and rejoicing against one another. We will see the reflection of this passage in

Psalms 126, 1 John 2, and 1 Corinthians 7.

**Sunday School meets each Sunday morning, 9:30 a.m.** Our adult class is studying subjects related to the morning message; the youth are tackling a series on Biblical answers to tough questions; the children’s class is learning the Lord’s Prayer.



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